

Aug 18 1874
Dear Wife—Our protracted rain-storm
here terminated on Saturday noon, succeeded by
a brilliant afternoon and evening, and ever
since the weather has been simply perfect. Sat-
urday evening I took tea with Julia, and also
dinner and tea on Sunday, she being quite
lonely on account of Miss Waterman's absence.
To-night she is hoping for William's presence.

Providence, Aug. 18, 1874.

Sunday forenoon Dr. Dow devoted nearly
two hours in giving me the Turkish bath, and
manipulating my rheumatic joints, but I had
no sleep that night, and my pains were more
rampant than ever; my hip being in a state
of the greatest inflammation, which still con-
tinues without abatement. This may in the
end be for the best, but I fail to see it. A
good deal of faith and patience are needed
under such discouraging circumstances, and
it has been my wish to make a fair trial.

Yesterday noon I received letters from Fanny, Frank, and yourself, for which thanks. Of course, I was much interested in Fanny's account of the visit of Mr. Eton, of Long Branch, N.J., with reference to my trying the efficacy of hot salt water baths. It was certainly an act of true sympathy and kindness, on his part, to take so much trouble to impart the information he gave. I immediately communicated to Dr. Dow the statement of Mr. E., feeling confident that he would not consider it a reflection upon his own method of treatment, as many a practitioner would have done; for he is a man devoid of selfishness, not opinionated, ever ready to accept a better way, and most solicitous for the speedy cure of his patients. He at once said, "Let us give it a trial." Accordingly, a new barrel was purchased, and sent by express to Newport, to be filled and returned here by the evening boat. Dr. Dow thought it better to get the genuine salt water at Newport, than to draw the water from the harbor here. A barrel

of it will suffice for only one bath; and as no immediate result is to be expected from it—mine being a most obstinate chronic case—the barrel will have to be sent a number of times. How the experiment works I hope to apprise you in person on Saturday next.

I was sure you would all be greatly disappointed at my not coming on Saturday last; but, as I wrote you, I was then experiencing too much bodily suffering to think of making the journey, much as I wished to see Miss McLaren; though I refrained from giving you the reason in the telegram I sent, lest it should cause you indefinite apprehension.

As Fanny thinks of accompanying Harry to New York, to see him embark, and then make a little visit to Wendell and Lucy, I shall feel all the more desirous to reach home on Saturday. It will be hard for H. and F. to be so soon separated, after so long an absence on his part. I trust he will have a quick and safe voyage, and be back before the winter sets in.

The explanation why neither William nor Frank could come to Providence on Saturday was entirely satisfactory to Julia. She had a strong desire to welcome both of them. Yesterday afternoon she accompanied me down the bay to Oakland Beach - a delightful sail.

- At this moment Dr. Dow hands me your letter of yesterday, and one from William, enclosing a check for \$50. I shall confidently expect to see him this evening, after I have taken tea at George L. Clarke's. Tomorrow we will all go to Newport, if the weather proves favorable. What a glorious day this would be for such an excursion! I seek diversion to make me forget my pains.

If I could be sure of making an arrangement in Boston, so as to procure hot salt water baths, I would bid farewell to Providence on Saturday - for I much prefer to be at home. Perhaps on inquiry at some of the bathing establishments, that could be readily determined. But Dr. Dow is quite willing to give me those baths as long as I wish.

I enclose a photograph of Sarah Tillinghast's darling little girl. Tell Helen, Harold and Oswald that grandpapa is happy to give them a good hug soon. Your loving W. L. G.